

CHAPTER 2016-91

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 793

An act relating to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; amending s. 1009.531, F.S.; providing that the initial award period and the renewal period for students who are unable to accept an initial award immediately after completion of high school due to a full-time religious or service obligation begin upon the completion of the religious or service obligation; specifying requirements for an entity that is sponsoring the obligation; requiring verification from the entity for which the student completed such obligation; revising eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; deleting obsolete provisions; amending s. 1009.532, F.S.; providing that certain students may receive an award for a specified number of credits towards specified programs and degree programs; amending ss. 1009.534 and 1009.535, F.S.; requiring a student, as a prerequisite for the Florida Academic Scholars award or the Florida Medallion Scholars award, to identify a civic issue or a professional area of interest and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area; prohibiting the student from receiving remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service work performed except in certain circumstances; requiring the hours of volunteer service work to be documented in writing and signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service work; amending s. 1009.536, F.S.; creating the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; requiring a student, as a prerequisite for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award, to identify a civic issue or a professional area of interest and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area; prohibiting the student from receiving remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service work performed except in certain circumstances; requiring the hours of volunteer service work to be documented in writing and signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service work; requiring a high school student graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year to meet certain requirements to be eligible for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award; providing that certain students may receive an award for a specified number of credits toward specified programs and degree programs; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) and paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (6) of section 1009.531, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1009.531 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; student eligibility requirements for initial awards.—

(2)

(c) A student graduating from high school in the 2012-2013 academic year and thereafter is eligible to accept an initial award for 2 years following high school graduation and to accept a renewal award for 5 years following high school graduation. A student who applies for an award by high school graduation and who meets all other eligibility requirements, but who does not accept his or her award, may reapply during subsequent application periods up to 2 years after high school graduation. For a student who enlists in the United States Armed Forces immediately after completion of high school, the 2-year eligibility period for his or her initial award and the 5-year renewal period shall begin upon the date of separation from active duty. For a student who is receiving a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship award and discontinues his or her education to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, the remainder of his or her 5-year renewal period shall commence upon the date of separation from active duty. For a student who is unable to accept an initial award immediately after completion of high school due to a full-time religious or service obligation lasting at least 18 months, the 2-year eligibility period for his or her initial award and the 5-year renewal period begin upon the completion of his or her religious or service obligation. The organization sponsoring the full-time religious or service obligation must meet the requirements for nonprofit status under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or be a federal government service organization, including, but not limited to, the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps programs. The obligation must be documented in writing and verified by the entity for which the student completed the obligation on a standardized form prescribed by the department. If a course of study is not completed after 5 academic years, an exception of 1 year to the renewal timeframe may be granted due to a verifiable illness or other documented emergency pursuant to s. 1009.40(1)(b)4.

(6)(a) The State Board of Education shall publicize the examination score required for a student to be eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars award, pursuant to s. 1009.534(1)(a) or (b), as follows:

1.— ~~For high school students graduating in the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic years, the student must earn an SAT score of 1270 or a concordant ACT score of 28.~~

2.— ~~For high school students graduating in the 2012-2013 academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 1280 which corresponds to the 88th SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT score of 28.~~

3.— ~~For High school students graduating in the 2013-2014 academic year and thereafter, the student must earn an SAT score of 1290 which corresponds to the 89th SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT score of 29.~~

(b) The State Board of Education shall publicize the examination score required for a student to be eligible for a Florida Medallion Scholars award, pursuant to s. 1009.535(1)(a) or (b), as follows:

~~1. For high school students graduating in the 2010-2011 academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 970 or a concordant ACT score of 20 or the student in a home education program whose parent cannot document a college preparatory curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT score of 23.~~

~~2. For high school students graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 980 which corresponds to the 44th SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT score of 21 or the student in a home education program whose parent cannot document a college preparatory curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT score of 23.~~

~~3. For high school students graduating in the 2012-2013 academic year, the student must earn an SAT score of 1020 which corresponds to the 51st SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT score of 22 or the student in a home education program whose parent cannot document a college preparatory curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1070 or a concordant ACT score of 23.~~

~~4. For High school students graduating in the 2013-2014 academic year and thereafter, the student must earn an SAT score of 1170 which corresponds to the 75th SAT percentile rank or a concordant ACT score of 26 or the student in a home education program whose parent cannot document a college preparatory curriculum must earn an SAT score of 1220 or a concordant ACT score of 27.~~

Section 2. Paragraph (d) is added to subsection (3) of section 1009.532, Florida Statutes, to read:

1009.532 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; student eligibility requirements for renewal awards.—

(3)

(d)1. A student who is initially eligible in the 2017-2018 academic year and thereafter for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award under s. 1009.536(2) may receive an award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to complete one of the following at a Florida public or nonpublic education institution that offers these specific programs: for an applied technology diploma program as defined in s. 1004.02(7), up to 60 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; for a technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13), up to the number of hours required for a specific degree, not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; or for a career certificate program as defined in s. 1004.02(20), up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate, not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours. A student who transfers

from one of these program levels to another program level is eligible for the higher of the two credit hour limits.

2. A Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholar who completes a technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13) may also receive an award for:

a. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of science degree program for which there is a statewide associate in science degree program to bachelor of science degree program articulation agreement; or

b. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of applied science degree program at a Florida College System institution.

Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 1009.534, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.534 Florida Academic Scholars award.—

(1) A student is eligible for a Florida Academic Scholars award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and ~~the student~~:

(a) Has achieved a 3.5 weighted grade point average as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or its equivalent, in high school courses that are designated by the State Board of Education as college-preparatory academic courses; and has attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6)(a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(b) Has attended a home education program according to s. 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12, ~~or~~ has completed the International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate Diploma, or has completed the Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but failed to earn the Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6)(a) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(c) Has been awarded an International Baccalaureate Diploma from the International Baccalaureate Office or an Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma from the University of Cambridge International Examinations Office;

(d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement programs of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or finalist; or

(e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program as a scholar recipient.

~~The A~~ student must complete a program of volunteer ~~community~~ service work, as approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students, which must ~~shall~~ include a minimum of 75 hours of service work for high school students graduating in the 2010-2011 academic year and 100 hours of service work for high school students graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter. ~~The student, and~~ must identify a social or civic issue or a professional area ~~problem~~ that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area ~~problem~~, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Except for credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service work performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service work.

Section 4. Subsection (1) of section 1009.535, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.535 Florida Medallion Scholars award.—

(1) A student is eligible for a Florida Medallion Scholars award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and ~~the student~~:

(a) Has achieved a weighted grade point average of 3.0 as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, or the equivalent, in high school courses that are designated by the State Board of Education as college-preparatory academic courses; and has attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(b) Has completed the International Baccalaureate curriculum but failed to earn the International Baccalaureate Diploma or has completed the Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum but failed to earn the Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma, and has attained at least the score required under ~~pursuant to~~ s. 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment

Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program;

(c) Has attended a home education program according to s. 1002.41 during grades 11 and 12 and has attained at least the score required under pursuant to s. 1009.531(6)(b) on the combined verbal and quantitative parts of the Scholastic Aptitude Test, the Scholastic Assessment Test, or the recentered Scholastic Assessment Test of the College Entrance Examination, or an equivalent score on the ACT Assessment Program, ~~if the student's parent cannot document a college-preparatory curriculum as described in paragraph (a);~~

(d) Has been recognized by the merit or achievement program of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation as a scholar or finalist but has not completed the a program of volunteer community service work required under as provided in s. 1009.534; or

(e) Has been recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program as a scholar, but has not completed the a program of volunteer community service work required under as provided in s. 1009.534.

A high school student graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter must complete at least 75 hours a program of volunteer community service work approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students. The student, which shall include a minimum of 75 hours of service work, and must identify a social or civic issue or a professional area problem that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area problem, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Except for credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive remuneration or academic credit for volunteer service work performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service work.

Section 5. Section 1009.536, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1009.536 Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars and Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars awards award.—The Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award and the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award are is created within the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program to recognize and reward academic achievement and career preparation by high school students who wish to continue their education.

(1) A student is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award if he or she ~~the student~~ meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program and ~~the student~~:

(a) Completes the secondary school portion of a sequential program of studies that requires at least three secondary school career credits. On-the-job training may not be substituted for any of the three required career credits.

(b) Demonstrates readiness for postsecondary education by earning a passing score on the Florida College Entry Level Placement Test or its equivalent as identified by the Department of Education.

(c) Earns a minimum cumulative weighted grade point average of 3.0, as calculated pursuant to s. 1009.531, on all subjects required for a standard high school diploma, excluding elective courses.

(d) Earns a minimum unweighted grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale for secondary career courses that comprise ~~comprising~~ the career program.

(e) Beginning with high school students graduating in the 2011-2012 academic year and thereafter, completes at least 30 hours ~~a program~~ of volunteer ~~community~~ service work approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students. The student must identify, which shall include a minimum of 30 hours of service work, and identifies a social or civic issue or a professional area problem that interests him or her, develop ~~develops~~ a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area problem, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate ~~evaluates~~ and reflect ~~reflects~~ upon his or her experience. Except for credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service work performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service work.

(2) A high school student graduating in the 2016-2017 academic year and thereafter is eligible for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award if he or she meets the general eligibility requirements for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, and the student:

(a) Earns a minimum of 5 postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications approved pursuant to s. 1008.44 which articulate for college credit; and

(b) Completes at least 30 hours of volunteer service work approved by the district school board, the administrators of a nonpublic school, or the Department of Education for home education program students. The student must identify a social or civic issue or a professional area that interests him or her, develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue or learning about the area, and, through papers or other presentations, evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience. Except for credit earned through service-learning courses adopted pursuant to s. 1003.497, the student may not receive remuneration or academic credit for the volunteer service work performed. Such work may include, but is not limited to, a business or governmental internship, work for a nonprofit community service organization, or activities on behalf of a candidate for public office. The hours of volunteer service work must be documented in writing, and the document must be signed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a representative of the organization for which the student performed the volunteer service work.

~~(3)(2)~~ A Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar who is enrolled in a public or nonpublic postsecondary education institution is eligible for an award equal to the amount specified in the General Appropriations Act to assist with the payment of educational expenses.

~~(4)(3)~~ To be eligible for a renewal award as a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholar, a student must maintain the equivalent of a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale with an opportunity for restoration one time as provided in this chapter.

~~(5)(a)(4)(a)~~ A student who is initially eligible prior to the 2010-2011 academic year may earn a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship for 110 percent of the number of credit hours required to complete the program, up to 90 credit hours or the equivalent.

(b) Students who are initially eligible in the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic years may earn a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship for 100 percent of the number of credit hours required to complete the program, up to 90 credit hours or the equivalent.

(c) A student who is initially eligible in the 2012-2013 academic year and thereafter may earn a Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to complete one of the following at a Florida public or nonpublic education institution that offers these specific programs: for an applied technology diploma program as defined in s. 1004.02(7), up to 60 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; for a technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13), up to the number of hours required for a specific degree not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; or for a career certificate program as defined in s. 1004.02(20), up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours.

(d)1. A student who is initially eligible in the 2017-2018 academic year and thereafter for a Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award under subsection (2) may receive an award for a maximum of 100 percent of the number of credit hours or equivalent clock hours required to complete one of the following at a Florida public or nonpublic education institution that offers these specific programs: for an applied technology diploma program as defined in s. 1004.02(7), up to 60 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; for a technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13), up to the number of hours required for a specific degree, not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours; or for a career certificate program as defined in s. 1004.02(20), up to the number of hours required for a specific certificate, not to exceed 72 credit hours or equivalent clock hours. A student who transfers from one of these program levels to another program level is eligible for the higher of the two credit hour limits.

2. A Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholar who completes a technical degree education program as defined in s. 1004.02(13) may also receive an award for:

a. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of science degree program for which there is a statewide associate in science degree program to bachelor of science degree program articulation agreement; or

b. A maximum of 60 credit hours for a bachelor of applied science degree program at a Florida College System institution.

Section 6. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the sum of \$66,468 in recurring funds from the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund is appropriated to the Department of Education for the purpose of implementing the amendments made by the act to s. 1009.531, Florida Statutes.

Section 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor March 24, 2016.

Filed in Office Secretary of State March 24, 2016.